

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

**1.(currently amended):** A communication apparatus comprising:

an audio compression unit for compressing an audio signal and outputting said compressed audio signal:

a fax-termination/switching control unit which ~~switches from an output of said audio compression unit;~~ carries out termination processing on a fax signal and ~~outputs controls a switch to output not an output of said audio compression but~~ said fax signal completing said termination processing when said fax signal is detected; and

an exclusion processing unit which is provided in front of said audio compression unit and blocks transmission of a raw negotiation signal to said audio compression unit in an exclusion process when detecting said negotiation signal.

**2.(original)** A communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said exclusion processing unit removes only a signal component with a frequency of said negotiation signal from an input signal and passes on components with other frequencies.

**3.(original)** A communication apparatus according to claim 1, said communication apparatus further comprising:

a single-tone-generating unit for generating a single tone with a fixed frequency indicating a fax terminal upon detection of said negotiation signal; and

a synthesis unit for adding said signal completing said exclusion process carried out in said exclusion processing unit.

**4.(currently amended):** A communication apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said single-tone-generating unit generates said single tone at the same level as a component with a predetermined frequency of said input signal.[:,:]

**5.(original)** A communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein;  
said negotiation signal is a signal completing amplitude modulation;  
said fax-termination/switching control unit includes a detection unit for detecting said negotiation signal within one period of an amplitude-modulation component; and  
said exclusion processing unit carries out an exclusion process on said input signal after said detection unit detects said negotiation signal.

**6.(cancelled)**

**7.(original)** A communication apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said detection unit confirms existence of said negotiation signal at a point of time said negotiation signal's component having a predetermined frequency is detected continuously during a period of post-detection protection and said amplitude-modulation component is detected.

**8.(original)** A communication apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said detection unit confirms non-existence of said negotiation signal when said negotiation signal's component having a predetermined frequency is undetected continuously during a period of pre-extinction protection.

**9.(original)** A communication apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said detection unit confirms non-existence of said negotiation signal when said negotiation signal's component having a predetermined frequency is undetected at at least a predetermined rate of non-detection during a period of pre-ex-extinction protection.

**10.(new):** A communication method performing steps of:

a step carrying out an exclusion process on a negotiation signal when said negotiation signal is detected;

a step compressing said negotiation signal carried out by said exclusion process as an audio signal and outputting said compressed negotiation signal through a switch; and

a step carrying out termination processing on a fax signal except said negotiation signal and outputting said fax signal completing said termination processing through said switch when said fax signal is detected;